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General Education Committee

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Fall 9-16-2015

# Minutes, September 16, 2015

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**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

September 16, 2015

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

Members Present: Brian Katz, Nathan Frank, Lisa Seidlitz , Xiaowen Zhang, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Rob Elflin, Rachel Weiss, Sarah McDowell, Jamie Nordling, Mamata Marme, Lendol Calder, Caitlin Slone (SGA)

Absent: Mike Egan, Kelvin Mason, Elizabeth Fetscher (SGA), Courtney Kampert (SGA)

Guests: Christina Myatt

**I. Minutes**

Motion- Lendol Calder moved **“to approve the minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as submitted.”**

Jamie Nordling seconded.

Discussion was opened. A typo was noted and it was asked that the summary of topics and discussions be more clearly labeled as a summary.

**MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9TH MEETING WITH THE NOTED CHANGES.**

Christina Myatt will file the amended minutes with Mary Koski in Academic Affairs.

### **III. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

#### **A. Tabled Motions**

##### **1. Approval of LSFY 102 Pickpockets to Merchants**

There was some question about using a paper from LSFY 101. Does everyone have a written response to the mentioned reading? Many liked the bridge that was being made between LSFY 101 and 102.

There are still questions about the “they say, I say” component. While there is more detailed information, it is not clear how the mechanics match the intentions of the LSFY 102 course work.

There are lots of good ideas in this proposal. The instructor has a good sense of liberal arts, the bridging of the LSFY courses is nice.

A motion was made by Lendol Calder to table the approval of this proposal. The motion was seconded by Nathan Frank. The committee is still looking for more information on the mechanics of the course. They would like to see the instructor meet with Rob Elfine to strengthen the proposal mechanics so that we can move to approve the course. Without further information, the committee felt the proposal would fail. A vote was taken.

**Motion passed to table the approval of LSFY 102 Pickpockets to Merchants.**

##### **2. Plan for going out to meet our constituencies**

We need to decide which item we want to pursue first and the exact questions to which we will be seeking answers.

Discussion ensued. It was the general consent that the question of the Gen Ed story was the most important to focus on as other questions were difficult to answer without it. The goal is to develop a story which the college can stand behind. We will need a good sampling of our colleagues in order to put together the story.

The question was raised should it be the current reality or what we want the story to be. The general consensus is that both should play into what we craft. They can talk about what the story is and what they hope it will be. The resulting end document will be a story that comes from the college faculty rather than imposed upon them.

Discussion ensued about possible questions to ask. Mention was made of what stories are told through individual courses, how our colleagues understand gen ed and its role and how they impart that to their students (this will show the need for a story), how important is it to faculty that there be a common language, and are people proud of our gen ed program.

Brian Katz will create a document that will allow folks to start fleshing out ideas. Next week, we will need a focused vision to enable us to move forward.

Caitlin Sloan (SGA representative) shared that she believes that the story does have an impact on students. The story shared with her has set her up to understand the importance of our Gen Ed program, something that some of her peers did not have. The inconsistency of the story for Gen Ed is very clearly seen by Caitlin in how her peers approach, understand, and succeed in fulfilling their gen ed requirements.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Gen Ed Representative on the Transfer-student Task Force**

The reality is that our transfer student numbers will continue to increase. Given that, we need to look at how we handle the different pressures of transfers. The task force was formed to look at issues and how we make Augustana a viable and attractive choice for transfer students. Gen Ed requirements are part of that. When forming the task force, certain constituencies were not represented. The task force would like to have a member of Gen Ed on the task force in order to speak to that part of the transfer process.

Discussion ensued about current practices for transfer students and what areas of this discussion may face more obstacles moving forward.

The committee unanimously supported the appointment of Nathan Frank as the Gen Ed representative to the Transfer-student task Force.

#### **2. Update from Academic Affairs**

None was given.

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Myatt